

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 05496 140505Z

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T AMMAN 5496

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EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR MARR JO SY
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN SYRIAN MILITARY COORDINATION

REF: STATE191428 AMMAN 5406

1. FROM OUR OWN TALKS, I BELIEVE YOU ARE OVER REACTING TO JORDANIAN SYRIAN MILITARY COORDINATION. WHAT SEEMS TRUE IS THAT SOME LATERAL COMMUNICATIONS HAS BEEN IMPROVED BUT SINCE MILITARY CIRCUITS WERE ALREADY IN AND BEING USED BETWEEN HDQTRS AND AIR DEFENSE OPERATION CENTERS AND HAD BEEN FOR A FEW YEARS, THE EXTENSION OF USCH COMMUNICATION TO DEVISIONAL ELEMENTS IF CONFIRMED IS NOT A RADICAL DEPARTURE. OTHER REPORTS OF AGREEMENT ON JOINT COMMAND HAVE JUST NOT HELD UP AS FAR AS OUR SOURCES HERE ARE CONCERNED. NEVERTHELESS WE REMAIN ALERT FOR SURPRISES AND ARE OVER CONSCIOUS OF FACT THAT WE DO NOT HAVE THE LAST WORD ON ALL OF THIS.

2.. WE SHARE YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE EFFECT OF ANY SURPRISES DURING KINGS VISIT ON THE CONGRESS AND THE HAWK SALE.

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3. I DO NOT FEEL RIFAI IS ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE

UNDESIRABILITY OF FURTHER SYRIAN JORDANIAN MILITARY
COOPERATION AT PRESENT. HOWEVER THIS MORNING AT THE
AIRPORT I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY PRIVATELY TO ASK HIM IF
THERE WOULD BE ANY "SURPRISES" COMING OUT OF KINGS
VISIT TO SYRIA AND ALSO TO REMIND HIM AS I HAVE ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE PAST OF THE SYRIAN ANGLE
IN CONNECTION WITH THE HAWK SALE. HE IS OF COURSE
ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF THE ISSUE. HE ASSURED ME
THERE WOULD BE NO SURPRISES AN MY IMPRESSION IS THAT
BASICALLY THE SYRIANS ARE IN A RELAXED MOOD AND NOT
PUSHING JORDANIANS TOWARD GREATER COOPERATION IN
THE MILITARY AREA AT LEAST IN TERMS OF PUBLIC
STATEMENTS OR ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE
A PUBLIC CHARACTER.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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